

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 MC-02 /093 R

8RAFTED BY NEA/P:MVANORDER:RGH

APPROVED BY NEA/P:MVANORDER

S/PRESS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

EUR/P - MR. JERABEK

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

NEA/ARN - MR. BULLEN

NEA/ARP - MR. AHERNE

AF/P - MR. POPE

NEA MS. GRIFFIN

----- 072825

P 281832Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN PRIORITY

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MANAMA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY  
USMISSION NATO PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY SANA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY  
USINT BAGHDAD PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY DOHA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY  
CINCEUR PRIORITY

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GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL, CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS  
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR  
JANUARY 27, 1976:

Q. HAVE YOU MANAGED TO GET ANY COMMENT FROM THE SECRETARY  
REGARDING THE REPORTS TODAY OF STATEMENTS IN A BOOK?

Q. WHAT'S THE QUESTION?

Q. I GAVE YOU THE REPORT OF THE GOLAN BOOK. I GAVE YOU  
A REPORT OF THAT FROM THE CHICAGO SUN-TIMES.

A. NO. WE ARE NOT GOING TO COMMENT ON THAT KIND OF  
GOSSIPY REPORT--AND THE FACT THAT WE DO NOT COMMENT ON IT  
DOES NOT MEAN THAT IT IS TRUE. IT JUST MEANS THAT WE ARE  
NOT GOING TO COMMENT ON THAT SORT OF GOSSIP.

Q. EXCUSE ME. WHAT'S "GOSSIPY" -- THE REPORT OR THE  
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BOOK? ARE YOU SAYING GOLAN'S ACCOUNT IS A GOSSIPY  
REPORT?

A. WE WOULD CHARACTERIZE IT AS "GOSSIPY."

Q. A GOSSIPY REPORT.

A. NOT THE NEWS ARTICLE REPORTING ON WHAT IS IN THE BOOK.

Q. NO, BUT THE BOOK ITSELF IS "GOSSIPY."

A. YES.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THE TALKS TODAY WITH MR. RABIN?

A. I CANNOT ADD ANYTHING TO WHAT THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE SECRETARY HAVE SAID AS THEY HAVE EMERGED FROM VARIOUS MEETINGS TODAY.

Q. I WONDER IF WE CAN GO BACK TO THE MIDDLE EAST?

A. YES.

Q. IF YOU CAN TELL US WHY THE ADMINISTRATION FEELS IT'S WISE TO CUT ALMOST 500 MILLION DOLLARS IN MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID TO ISRAEL AT THIS TIME?

A. YOU MEAN FOR THE COMING FISCAL YEAR?

Q. FOR FISCAL '77.

A. THE STORY THAT BROKE LAST WEEK?

Q. YES.

A. I THINK, AS WAS INDICATED AT THAT TIME, THE BASIS FOR THESE FIGURES WAS OUR ESTIMATE OF THE NEEDS OF ISRAEL TO MEET ITS SECURITY REQUIREMENTS.

Q. SO YOU FEEL THEY DO MEET THEIR SECURITY REQUIREMENTS? LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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A. YES.

Q. WELL, DO THEY ALSO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR ISRAEL TO TAKE THE RISKS FOR PEACE THAT PRESIDENT FORD TODAY IS URGING MR. RABIN TO TAKE?

A. YES, I WOULD THINK SO; YES.

Q. WELL, WOULD ISRAEL BE IN A BETTER POSITION WERE IT TO HAVE MORE AID, OR DO YOU FEEL IT WOULD MAKE NO DIFFERENCE?

A. I REALLY HAVE TO REMAIN WITH THE ESTIMATES OF THOSE WHO WERE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN PREPARING THE DOCUMENTS.

Q. WELL, WERE THEY FAMILIAR WITH THE NEGOTIATING POSITION BEING PRESSED ON ISRAEL WHEN THEY MADE THOSE ESTIMATES?

A. CERTAINLY IT WAS AN ADMINISTRATION POSITION AND THE PERSONS WHO ARE INVOLVED IN IT ARE THOSE WHO ARE DIRECTLY CONCERNED WITH THE NEGOTIATIONS.

Q. ARE THERE NO DOMESTIC FACTORS IN THIS--AMERICAN DOMESTIC FACTORS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN COMING TO THE ONE BILLION DOLLAR FIGURE FOR ISRAEL?

A. NO, I DO NOT BELIEVE SO. I THINK WE HAVE--

Q. STRICTLY ON WHAT AMERICA SEES ISRAELI NEEDS ARE?

A. BUT THOSE ESTIMATES WERE MADE BOTH FOR THIS AND THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR, AND THE OTHER PROJECTIONS WERE MADE AFTER WE HAD VERY EXTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS WITH THE ISRAELI AUTHORITIES AND EXAMINED THEIR REQUIREMENTS AND THEIR PRESENTATION.

Q. ARE YOU SAYING THE ISRAELIS UNDERSTOOD THAT ONE BILLION DOLLARS WAS GOING TO BE PROPOSED FOR 1977?

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A. I DO NOT KNOW AT WHAT POINT THE ISRAELIS WERE INFORMED OF THE ESTIMATES WE WOULD BE SUBMITTING TO THE CONGRESS.

Q. WHEN THE LAST ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE ON THE GROUND, THERE WAS NO SUGGESTION TO THE ISRAELIS THAT THEY COULD EXPECT AT LEAST A FIGURE EQUAL TO WHAT THEY'RE GETTING IN 1976 OR PROPOSED FOR THEM IN 1976?

A. ON BACKGROUND, I DO NOT BELIEVE SO, BUT LET ME CHECK INTO THAT. I JUST DO NOT KNOW. ENDBACKGROUND

Q. HAS MR. RABIN EXPRESSED THE WISH TO HAVE THE PREVIOUS FIGURE -- ONE AND A HALF BILLION -- REESTABLISHED?

A. I DO NOT KNOW. I AM NOT AWARE THAT HE HAS.

Q. WHAT DO YOU SUSPECT HE WAS SAYING WHEN HE SAID THAT ISRAEL NEEDS A STRONG DEFENSE TO BE ABLE TO TAKE THESE RISKS? DO YOU TAKE THAT AS A CRITICISM OF THE CUT IN

AID?

A. WHY IS IT A CUT IN AID? I BELIEVE THE FIGURE FOR THE CURRENT YEAR WAS LARGER THAN IN PREVIOUS YEARS. AND THEN FOR THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR, THE FIGURE IS MORE IN LINE WITH WHAT IT HAS BEEN IN THE PAST, I BELIEVE.

Q. THE ISRAELIS ARGUE, THAT THEY NEED AT LEAST A SUM EQUAL IN 1977 TO THAT IN 1976 -- PARTICULARLY WHEN YOU TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THERE'S AN EXTRA THREE MONTHS AND THERE'S AN INFLATION FACTOR HERE. I THINK AS ONE ISRAELI OFFICIAL PUT IT, THEY'RE GETTING LESS MONEY OVER A LONGER PERIOD OF TIME FOR HIGHER-PRICED GOODS.

A. I CANNOT REALLY ADD ANYTHING TO THE STATEMENTS WE HAVE ALREADY MADE ON THIS QUESTION.

Q. BUT THERE'S NO AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT -- NO AMERICAN DOMESTIC CONSIDERATION LIKE THE ECONOMY -- INVOLVED HERE, OR A DECISION THAT THE MONEY SHOULD GO FOR AMERICAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MILITARY NEEDS, OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT. IT'S STRICTLY AN AMERICAN PERCEPTION OF THE DEFENSE NEEDS OF ISRAEL.

A. WHEN WE DETERMINE WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE FOR ANY NUMBER OF PROJECTS, THERE IS A FINITE NUMBER OF RESOURCES THAT CAN BE USED IN ANY GIVEN PERIOD AND THESE THINGS HAVE TO BE BALANCED.

YOU CANNOT SAY THAT ONE PROGRAM HAS EXCLUSIVE PRIORITY OVER ALL OTHERS. I BELIEVE THAT IS A SELF-EVIDENT ELEMENT OF THE WHOLE BUDGET PROCESS.

Q. WHAT WOULD THE SECRETARY LIKE TO SEE NEXT SO FAR AS RESUMING NEGOTIATIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST?

A. I THINK THAT AS OF TODAY, HOW WE LOOK BEYOND THE SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE IS CONTAINED IN THE STATEMENT THAT WE ISSUED LAST NIGHT. THIS WAS A RATHER DETAILED AND BROAD STATEMENT LOOKING BEYOND THE DEBATE. IT EMPHASIZES OUR APPROACH TOWARD THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS IN THE COMING PERIOD AS WE ENDEAVOR TO MAINTAIN NEGOTIATIONS DIRECTED AT THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A JUST AND LASTING PEACE IN THE AREA. I WOULD COMMEND IT TO YOUR READING AND CAREFUL EXAMINATION.

Q. I'D BE HAPPY TO DO THAT. I WASN'T HERE YESTERDAY. BUT WHAT WOULD THEY LIKE TO HAVE COME OUT OF RABIN'S VISIT?

A. I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THERE ARE SPECIFIC GOALS. OBVIOUSLY, WE HAVE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO THESE CONSULTATIONS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER IN ORDER TO EXCHANGE VIEWS AND TO LOOK BEYOND THE SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE WHICH ENDED LAST NIGHT -- TO HAVE THE BENEFIT OF HIS VIEWS -- AS WE TOGETHER TRY, AS I JUST SAID, TO MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AND SEE WHAT WE CAN DO NEXT.

Q. CAN YOU BE MORE SPECIFIC --

A. NO. I REALLY WOULD PREFER THAT YOU READ THAT NINE-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE STATEMENT, I BELIEVE, WHICH WAS CAREFULLY PREPARED AND WHICH WE ISSUED LAST NIGHT. THAT REALLY IS THE DEFINITIVE STATEMENT AS OF NOW ON OUR APPROACH.

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## Message Attributes

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